5 6

TCU FOOTBALL

Horned Frogs can't overcome OU's early surge, lose 38-20 1C

COWBOYS

Ezekiel Elliott's backups' attitude, experience keep team confident 1C

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SUNDAY

LOCAL & TEXAS

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Some Vietnam War veterans at the Veterans Day parade in Fort Worth say painful homecomings weren't easy to overcome. **1B**

OUT OF THE COLD

SLAYING SUSPECT STILL AT LARGE

Time has done little to ease the pain of the family of a Fort Worth auto shop owner who died after being shot in the head in 2007. **1B**

As gun law debates rage, many agree 'you cannot legislate evil'

BY ANNA M. TINSLEY
atinsley@star-telegram.com

Concerts. Football watch parties. Baseball parks. Churches.

These days, it seems nowhere is safe.

This year alone, more than 530 people have been shot and killed in mass shootings, including a week ago at a tiny rural church in Sutherland Springs, outside of San Antonio, leaving our nation saddened, confused and pointing fingers.

Each time, even before many have had time to mourn the lives lost, the issue turns political.

Some Democrats call for action, saying more restrictions are needed.

SEE GUN LAWS, 26A

County clerk moves to unmask lawsuits filed under aliases or initials

BY MAX B. BAKER
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FORT WORTH

Tarrant County District Clerk Tom Wilder is taking steps to end the decades-long practice of allowing lawsuits to be filed with initials, aliases and pseudonyms as a way to hide the identities of the people involved.

If Wilder's office can't identify the parties — or if there are questions whether real names are being used — a judge will be asked to issue an order forcing the litigants to verify their identities by using their full names. Wilder contends that only a judge can order that to happen.

"We are trying a new tactic to identify people who file with alias's [sic] or something other than actual party names," Wilder said in an email to the judges this week. Wednesday, Wilder distributed a form letter, already used in one case, that will be used to ask district court judges for assistance. He plans to use it in all of the courts.

Wilder's action follows an Oct. 22 Star-Telegram report that a number of divorces and family court cases involving high-profile litigants, including Texas Rangers co-chairman Bob Simpson, couldn't be accessed by searching digital court records.

The divorces were filed using initials, masking their identities and complicating any search. But Wilder also said that a

SEE ALIASES, 24A

TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Can King make leap from gang cop to House speaker?

JAY JANNER Austin American-Statesman

State Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, votes against an amendment to his school finance bill during this year's special legislative session.

ERIC GAY AP

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, will not seek re-election, meaning a wide-open race to succeed him.

Legislator who had law enforcement career in Fort Worth now faces his greatest challenge

BY DAVE MONTGOMERY
Special to the Star-Telegram

AUSTIN

The voting won't take place until Jan. 8, 2019, but State Rep. Phil King of Weatherford, the first announced candidate to be the next Texas House speaker, is already running as though the election is just around the corner.

In seeking to prevail over what is likely to be a substantial list of contenders to replace outgoing Speaker Joe Straus, the 61-year-old Republican lawmaker makes it clear that he plans to leave nothing to chance in a race that will ultimately be decided on the first day of the 2019 Legislature, when House members choose a new leader.

"I can tell you this: That no one will work harder the next year to be elected speaker than I will," King said in a recent interview from his office on the first floor of the State Capitol. "I'm in it for the long run."

King announced his candidacy on Sept. 22, assuming that he would be challenging Straus, the five-term Republican speaker with whom King had become increasingly critical. But the dynamics of the contest changed overnight just over a week ago, on Oct. 25, when Straus announced that he would not be seeking re-election to his San Antonio House district.

As a result, the State Capitol is facing a wide-open speaker's race that threatens to further intensify the political and philo-

SEE KING, 5A

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